Fresno, CA - Today, Congressman Jim Costa (CA-20) announced the City of Bakersfield as the recipient of an Economic Development Initiative grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$277,750.

" Maintaining a safe and pleasant atmosphere in which Bakersfield residents can reside is an important goal and these funds will aid in the city's attempt to achieve such a goal, " Congressman Costa said.

Economic Development Initiative funds generally are used for property acquisition; housing rehabilitation; economic development activities; acquisition, construction, reconstruction or installation of public facilities; public works and other site improvements. The city of Bakersfield has designated the grant for improvement of sidewalks, street furniture and facades.

" Enhancing the image of a city is a key factor in the effort to promote the interests of its residents and Bakersfield community members will benefit from the proposed projects, " concluded Congressman Costa.

#